In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

1. (**Previously presented**) A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a composite protein, which composite protein includes a CAB domain comprising a portion of calcineurin A and a portion of calcineurin B, wherein the CAB domain forms a tripartite complex with an FKBP/CAB ligand and an FKBP domain.

2. (**Previously presented**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the calcineurin A portion of the CAB domain comprises a peptide sequence selected from any of the following peptide sequences: residues 12-394 of human calcineurin A, residues 12-370 of human calcineurin A or residues 340-394 of human calcineurin A (with reference to the peptide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 33).

3. (**Previously presented**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the calcineurin B portion of the CAB domain comprises residues 3-170 of human calcineurin B (with reference to the peptide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 35).

4. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a calcineurin A and/or calcineurin B peptide sequence which differs from a naturally occurring calcineurin peptide sequence by up to ten amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions.

5. (**Original**) A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein comprising at least one CAB domain of claim 1 and at least one additional domain that is heterologous thereto.

6. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein the heterologous domain is selected from the group comprising a DNA binding domain, a transcription regulatory domain, a cellular localizing domain and a signaling domain.

7. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a lexA, GAL4 or composite DNA binding domain.

8. **(Original)** The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a p65, VP16 or AP domain.

9. **(Original)** The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a KRAB domain or a ssn-6/TUP-1 domain.

10. **(Original)** The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from an intracellular domain of a cell surface receptor.

11. **(Original)** A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein containing one or more CAB domains which form a tripartite complex with an FKBP domain-containing protein and a non naturally occurring FKBP/CAB ligand preferentially over FK506.

12. **(Previously presented)** A nucleic acid composition, comprising a first recombinant nucleic acid of any of claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11, and further comprising a second recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein comprising at least one FKBP domain and at least one additional domain that is heterologous thereto.

13. **(Original)** A nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the second nucleic acid encodes a fusion protein containing a heterologous domain that is the same or different from the heterologous domain on the first fusion protein.

14. **(Original)** The nucleic acid composition of claim 13 wherein the first fusion protein comprises a CAB domain and a transcription activation domain and the second fusion protein comprises an FKBP domain and a DNA binding domain.

15. **(Original)** The nucleic acid composition of claim 13 wherein the first fusion protein comprises a CAB domain and a DNA binding domain and the second fusion protein comprises an FKBP domain and a transcription activation domain.

16. **(Original)** A nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the first and second fusion proteins form a ligand dependent complex in the presence of ligand, and wherein the complex initiates a detectable biological signal.

17. **(Original)** The nucleic acid composition of claim 16 wherein the biological signal is selected from the group comprising transcription, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, apoptosis.

18. **(Original)** The nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the composition further comprises a target gene construct.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Original)** A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claim 1-3 or 5-11.

21. **(Original)** A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid of claim 4.

22. **(Original)** A vector comprising a nucleic acid composition of claim 12.

23. **(Original)** The vector of claim 20 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

24. **(Original)** A vector of claim 22 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

25. **(Original)** The vector of claim 23 or 24 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, AAV, herpesvirus, retrovirus, hybrid adenovirus/AAV, poxvirus, lentivirus.

26. **(Currently amended)** An isolated host cell comprising and expressing a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claim 1-3 or 5-11.

27. **(Currently amended)** An isolated host cell comprising and expressing a nucleic acid composition of claim 12.

28. **(Previously presented)** A host cell of claim 26 which is an isolated cell of human origin.

29. **(Previously presented)** An isolated cell of human origin which comprises a host cell of claim 27 which is isolated and of human origin.

30. **(Previously presented)** A host cell of claim 26 which is encapsulated ex vivo within a biocompatible material.

31. **(Previously presented)** A host cell of claim 27 which is encapsulated ex vivo within a biocompatible material.

32. **(Currently amended)** A mouse ~~non-human animal~~ containing host cells of claim 26.

33. **(Currently amended)** A mouse ~~non-human animal~~ containing host cells of claim 27.

34. **(Currently amended)** An in vitro method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claims 1-3 or 5-11 under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.

35. **(Currently amended)** An in vitro method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells the nucleic acid composition of claim 12 under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 34 wherein the nucleic acids are introduced ex vivo.

37. **(Original)** The method of claim 35 wherein the nucleic acids are introduced ex vivo.

38-50. **(Cancelled)**

51. **(Currently amended)** An in vitro method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells the nucleic acid compositions of any of claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18 under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.